

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheet makes changes to Fig. 3 and replaces the original sheet with Fig. 3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification, drawings and claim 1 are amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Kornakov during the personal interview held August 22, 2006, are gratefully appreciated. The reasons presented in the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action objects to the drawings because they do not include the reference sign 76 mentioned in the specification. The drawings are amended to include the label 76. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the specification because of informalities. The specification is amended to overcome the informalities. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)/§102(e) over Bush et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,461,442). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, Bush fails to disclose or suggest a process that includes providing a hollow imaging drum having a first and, a second and, an outside surface, an inside surface and a coating material on both the inside surface and the outside surface, the method also including simultaneously contacting the coating material on both the inside surface and the outside surface at the first end of the drum with a one-piece resilient sponge material, as recited in independent claim 1.

It was agreed during the personal interview that Bush does not disclose this feature. Moreover, having a two-piece sponge material as taught in Bush requires a precise alignment during the manufacturing process and bonding of the two pieces, as indicated in the

specification at, for example, page 2, lines 12-27. Furthermore, as also indicated in the same portion of the specification, having a sponge material that is from the two pieces presents problems with formation of bubbles that are due to solvent flow around and through the two-piece sponge material. Such bubbles reduce the efficiency of the removal of strip materials from the photoreceptive drum, and having a one-piece sponge material eliminates this problem.

For at least these reasons, independent claim 1, and its dependent claims, are patentable over Bush. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)/§102(e) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:TMN/amw
Attachment:

Drawing Replacement Sheet

Date: August 24, 2006

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